

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 298(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/13/22

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SNYDER, Tarr, Rauscher, Vance, Drummond, Tuck, Hopkins, Gillham, Cronk, McCabe, Story, Johnson, Josephson

SENATORS Hughes, Holland, Micciche, Reinbold, Gray-Jackson, Costello, Shower, Stevens, Kawasaki, Revak

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to establish the Alaska
7 Food Strategy Task Force to

- 8 (1) develop a comprehensive statewide food strategy;
9 (2) strengthen the state's diverse food systems;
10 (3) improve food security for all residents of the state; and
11 (4) grow the local food economies of the state.

12 * **Sec. 2.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 ALASKA FOOD STRATEGY TASK FORCE. (a) The Alaska Food Strategy Task

1 Force is created in the legislative branch.

2 (b) The executive board of the task force consists of nine members as follows:

3 (1) two members from the Alaska Food Policy Council selected by the
4 governing board of the Alaska Food Policy Council;

5 (2) one member from the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the
6 University of Alaska Anchorage selected by the Board of Regents;

7 (3) one member from the Alaska Farm Bureau selected by the governing
8 board of the Alaska Farm Bureau;

9 (4) one member from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export
10 Authority selected by the members of the authority; and

11 (5) four members of the Alaska State Legislature appointed as follows:

12 (A) one member from the minority caucus of the senate and one
13 member from the majority caucus of the senate, appointed jointly by the president of
14 the senate and speaker of the house of representatives;

15 (B) one member from the minority caucus of the house of
16 representatives and one member from the majority caucus of the house of
17 representatives, appointed jointly by the president of the senate and speaker of the
18 house of representatives.

19 (c) The following commissioners, or their designees, serve as members of the task
20 force:

21 (1) the commissioner of natural resources;

22 (2) the commissioner of fish and game;

23 (3) the commissioner of health and social services;

24 (4) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development;

25 (5) the commissioner of education and early development; and

26 (6) the commissioner of transportation and public facilities.

27 (d) The remainder of the task force consists of 21 members selected by the executive
28 board, with due regard for broad geographic representation of the state, as follows:

29 (1) one member from a mariculture development organization;

30 (2) one member from an agricultural development organization;

31 (3) one member from a fisheries-related organization;

- 1 (4) one member from a local food marketing organization;
- 2 (5) one member from a hunger and nutrition organization;
- 3 (6) one member from an economic development organization;
- 4 (7) one member from the food distribution or transportation industry;
- 5 (8) two members from Alaska Native or intertribal organizations addressing
- 6 food sovereignty or Alaska tribal governments;
- 7 (9) two members who are food producers in the state;
- 8 (10) two members from the food service industry;
- 9 (11) one youth member from the Alaska Future Farmers of America
- 10 Association or the Alaska 4-H Program;
- 11 (12) one member who is a faculty member at the University of Alaska
- 12 Anchorage;
- 13 (13) one member who is a faculty member at the University of Alaska
- 14 Fairbanks;
- 15 (14) one member who is a faculty member at the University of Alaska
- 16 Southeast;
- 17 (15) one member who is a faculty member at the Alaska Pacific University;
- 18 and
- 19 (16) three members selected to provide additional expertise in food system
- 20 development.

21 (e) The executive board of the task force shall select members to provide expertise in
 22 key areas of food system activity, including production, security, and economic, social, and
 23 environmental drivers. In this subsection,

24 (1) "production" includes growing and harvesting, food processing,
 25 packaging, distribution, retail, and consumption and waste management;

26 (2) "security" includes food access, availability, and use.

27 (f) The executive board of the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair from the
 28 executive board.

29 (g) Members of the task force serve without compensation and may not receive travel
 30 and per diem expenses.

31 (h) The task force shall meet during and between legislative sessions to accomplish its

1 duties. Meetings shall be conducted, and notice of regular meetings provided, under
 2 AS 44.62.310 - 44.62.319 (Open Meetings Act). Records of the Alaska Food Strategy Task
 3 Force are subject to inspection and copying as public records under AS 40.25.100 - 40.25.295
 4 (Alaska Public Records Act).

5 (i) The executive board may remove a member of the task force if the member misses
 6 more than two meetings in a calendar year without being previously excused or if the member
 7 does not contribute in a meaningful way to the activities of the task force. Vacancies on the
 8 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection.

9 (j) The task force shall present state policy, legislation, and strategy implementation
 10 recommendations in the following seven integrated focus areas:

- 11 (1) sustainably growing the agriculture industry;
- 12 (2) sustainably growing markets for locally grown, locally harvested, and
 13 locally processed foods;
- 14 (3) enhancing the climate for food and beverage processing or distribution
 15 businesses;
- 16 (4) minimizing food waste and diverting it from the waste stream;
- 17 (5) improving connectivity, efficiencies, and outcomes in state-run programs
 18 affecting food availability and access;
- 19 (6) ensuring food security in all communities in the state, including those that
 20 are and are not connected to the main road system of the state; and
- 21 (7) improving transportation and infrastructure to transfer and deliver food in
 22 the state.

23 (k) The task force shall, in its consideration of the seven integrated focus areas under
 24 (j) of this section, address, at a minimum, the following elements:

- 25 (1) public, nonprofit, and private investment and infrastructure;
- 26 (2) regulatory issues;
- 27 (3) research and development needs;
- 28 (4) environmental changes;
- 29 (5) workforce development needs;
- 30 (6) infrastructure needs and storage;
- 31 (7) high food costs and food access;

- 1 (8) food safety;
- 2 (9) varying scales of food system and storage development;
- 3 (10) innovative technologies for the Circumpolar North;
- 4 (11) adaptation of successful food system policies, models, and programs
- 5 across the Circumpolar North and other states;
- 6 (12) Alaska tribal relations as they pertain to food security, food sovereignty,
- 7 and local storage methods; and
- 8 (13) emergency preparedness.

9 (l) The task force shall establish advisory committees focused on addressing each of
 10 the seven integrated focus areas under (j) of this section and the minimum elements under (k)
 11 of this section, and each task force member shall serve on one or more of these committees.

12 (m) The task force shall present recommendations for metrics appropriate for
 13 evaluating food system effects and food security outcomes.

14 (n) The recommendations of the task force must be

- 15 (1) evidence based;
- 16 (2) stakeholder informed;
- 17 (3) economically sound;
- 18 (4) environmentally sustainable; and
- 19 (5) equally accessible.

20 (o) The task force shall develop and present recommendations in three of the
 21 integrated focus areas under (j) of this section by August 1, 2023, and recommendations in the
 22 remaining integrated focus areas under (j) of this section by August 1, 2024. The task force
 23 shall compile the recommendations into a report and submit the report to the governor, the
 24 senate secretary, and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature
 25 that the report is available.

26 (p) The task force shall continue the efforts of and review and, when applicable,
 27 implement the recommendations of the Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force
 28 established by Administrative Order No. 331.

29 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska enacted in sec. 2(c) of this Act is
 30 amended to read:

31 (c) The following commissioners, or their designees, serve as members of the task

1 force:

- 2 (1) the commissioner of natural resources;
- 3 (2) the commissioner of fish and game;
- 4 (3) the commissioner of health [AND SOCIAL SERVICES];
- 5 (4) the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development;
- 6 (5) the commissioner of education and early development; and
- 7 (6) the commissioner of transportation and public facilities.

8 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
9 read:

10 TRANSITION. The Alaska Food Strategy Task Force created under sec. 2 of this Act
11 shall begin work not later than 30 days after both the senate and the house of representatives
12 have organized in the First Regular Session of the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature.

13 * **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 - 3 of this Act are repealed June 30, 2025.

14 * **Sec. 6.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2022.

15 * **Sec. 7.** Except as provided in sec. 6 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
16 AS 01.10.070(c).